

Supported Employment Leadership Network (SELN)

Meeting

Date: September 25, 2014
Location: 111 N Sanders Rm 207
Time: 10:00 – 3:00 pm.

Attendees: Kelly McNurlin (DDP), Misti Hofland (VR), Phyllis Astheimer (Family Outreach), Mike Hermanson (DETD), Jannis Conselyea (DDP), Cathy Murphy (DDP Reg 4 Manager), Jennifer Kurk (Family Outreach), Novelene Martin (DDP Bureau Chief), Dorrie Fishback (Family Outreach), Karen Cech (recorder).

Phone Attendees: Diane Reidelbach (Job Connection), Kim Schweikert (ESGW), Bill Herrant (Independent Living Center), Diane Nelson (ESGW), Misti Hofland (VR - Grt Falls), Marlene Disburg Ross (AMDD), Laurel Gebo (DDP Reg 2 Manager), June Hermanson (MT Youth in Transition) Diane Reidelbach (Job Connection).

➤ **Introduce Novelene Martin, DDP Bureau Chief -**

Meeting was opened with a welcome to attendees and an introduction of the new Developmental Disabilities Program Bureau Chief, Novelene Martin. Novelene has been with the State of Montana for nearly 30 years:

- MDC for 2 years,
- 1990 moved to DDP QIS in Miles City
- 2005 switched to Children's Mental Health Bureau (CMHB)
- Liaison between DDP and CMHB
- Served as parent member on Family Support Services Advisory Council (FSSAC)
- 2012 DDP Waiver Specialist in Helena.

If anyone has questions they are welcome to contact Novelene at (406) 444-5662 or nomartin@mt.gov.

➤ **Project Search Recap and Update -**

Cathy Murphy, DDP Region 4 Manager, gave a progress report on Project Search. Project Search originated in the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and has spread across 40 states and 4 countries. This project is a nine month internship transition program for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities that are in their last year of high school or are recent graduates. Christy Sofianek who has a special-education background, is the coordinator of Project Search in Bozeman, Montana. The agencies involved in this project are the Bozeman

Deaconess Hospital, REACH Inc., DREAM (Down Syndrome Research, Education and Advocacy of Montana), Montana Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), Helena Industries Case Management.

Individuals will have to apply for the project, sign an agreement of attendance, go through an interview process, and have long term support of one of three: 1) Extended Employment through VR, 2) DD Supports, or 3) Private Pay.

Meetings and trainings have begun, interviews for participants have taken place, participants have made a commitment to the project, individuals have been in the class room the last couple of weeks, and are being introduced into their internship sites. More general information on Project Search can be found at: www.projectsearch.us

➤ **MT Youth in Transition Conference Overview -**

June Hermanson presented an overview on the MT Youth in Transition Conference to the SELN group. The conference is November 5-7, 2014 at the Holiday Inn Downtown in Missoula. Youth, parents, para-professionals, and vendors will come together to educate and show attendees what services are available to help youth in the transitioning process from school into the community workforce. Scholarships are available to youth and families. Keynote speakers will be Craig J Boykin and Dr. Stephen Birchak. More information can be found by contacting June at mylfjune@bresnan.net or www.montanayouthtransitions.org.

➤ **Progress updates and Stats on Curriculum -**

Kelly submitted an update to the National SELN Team on what the Montana SELN workgroup has been doing for the fiscal year, July 2013 through June 2014. This update included the Curriculum that was created, implemented, and some early stats. Vocational Rehabilitation made the curriculum mandatory to take July 1, 2014. The Developmental Disabilities Program discussed making the curriculum mandatory but has opted to wait at this time. The curriculum was up and running the second week in July.

Some statistics on the curriculum are:

- a) 64 participants have enrolled, and
- b) 43 participants completed and passed final exam.

It is nice to have factual data on the curriculum.

Comments about the curriculum were:

- a) Provider was pleased with the content,
- b) Liked interaction within curriculum,

- c) Thought curriculum flowed well,
- d) Like the variety in the format,
- e) Self-direct member said all their staff will be required to take,
- f) Curriculum takes about 5.5 - 7.5 hours,
- g) Individuals that have taken curriculum are excited to implement what they have learned,
- h) Experienced individuals come out of curriculum with something they did not know, and
- i) Helpful for new coaches starting with providers.

Kelly wanted to convey to the group that she is looking for any feedback on the curriculum. The curriculum can be updated if anyone sees any improvements that can be made.

The employment curriculum training is on the DDP website under Trainings at <http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/dsd/ddp/invest.shtml> .

➤ Areas of Focus -

Summary of past accomplishments:

- a) Data collection from last October 2013 can be found on the SELN website. It is too late to gather data this October but we a targeted collection can be done April or May. *******The group decided to aim for April.**
 - It was also discussed that future years of data collection may cycle well with October one year and the next year be April.
 - SELN group may want to review and update the survey before sending it out in April.

**** SELN meetings:

- a) Time is from 10-3:00 p.m. - Is four hours to long?
- b) How do we re-ignite interest? Should we focus and start work on projects?
- c) Is SELN as effective as it used to be?
- d) Are attendees getting something out of meetings?
- e) Should we ask new people to attend? Should we make core group more manageable?

Kelly asked group if there is still a vested interest in the SELN workgroup and was hoping to get some feedback. Each month there are fewer individuals in attendance. Does the workgroup need to re-determine their purpose and goals? Agenda items, projects, and input for meetings will be needed and a group effort to put this together.

**** Please send your ideas to Kelly at KMcNurlin2@mt.gov .

- **Webinar** - ODEP: Collaborative Practices in the Transition Years: Starting Work and Careers as Teens and Young Adults was reviewed by the workgroup at 1:00 pm.

The next SELN meeting is October 23, 2014 from 10:00 - 3:00 pm. At this meeting we will look at November and December meeting to see when to have them around the holiday schedule or to do one in the early part of December.